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Page 3

**Inside**

- 6 SCHOOL NEWS
- 8 BARNARDIAN NEWS
- 13 1970S REUNION
- 20 NEWS IN BRIEF

# BARNEY CONNECT

**ISSUE 05**  
TRINITY 2018

Magazine for  
Barnard Castle School  
alumni and supporters



## HEADMASTER'S FIRST SCHOOL CHAPEL



BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL

# Contact

BARNEY CONNECT  
ISSUE 05  
TRINITY 2018



BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL

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# Welcome

## TONY JACKSON



**Headmaster**

Barnard Castle School

**As I hurtle towards the end of my first year as Headmaster of Barney I naturally find myself reflecting on the year that has passed. There have been significant highs, as I get to grips with this wonderful school (with just one or two lows which are inevitable when running a school with 700 pupils and 200 staff!).**

It has to be said that some of the most memorable occasions throughout the year have been my interactions with Old Barnardians, whether it be at dinners in London, Hong Kong or at School, at reunions, gatherings, or simply OBs visiting School in person taking a trip down memory lane. This February, I was at a recruitment fair in Kowloon and it was a notable highlight when two OBs heard that the new Headmaster of their old school was in town along to help.

With every OB I have had the pleasure of meeting thus far, I have been struck by two things. Firstly, the affiliation each has with the School, regardless of the type of experience enjoyed or endured. Secondly, I spend a great deal of time telling prospective parents that developing the most important quality of humility is at the heart of all we do and it is something which seems to be embodied in every OB I meet. This is rare when dealing with these types of schools and it is humbling to see it so evident in our Old Barnardian community.

With a year almost navigated (just two weeks to go), thoughts inevitably turn to the future and the task of building on the magnificent foundations established by my predecessors. As I explained at the London Dinner, we operate in a difficult and challenging market with few or no friends in government, as well as other key factors, which have resulted in schools such as ours facing a real fight for survival. Whilst I am keen not to use this forum to paint a picture of doom and gloom, I do wish to stress that I do not want Barney simply to survive; rather, I want to see it thrive in the years ahead. I am the temporary custodian of this resplendent School and I will continue to strive to ensure that the School goes from strength to strength, enabling it to continue educating Barnardians for many years to come.

In order to do this, we must undertake a serious amount of refurbishment of the existing estate which has been neglected for too long, as well as embark on a development plan which will see us become the leading independent school in the North of England. Later in these pages, Peter Hodges will spell out in more detail the ambitious plans we have and the excitement we have for this vision. To ensure such a vision becomes a reality we will, in part, need help. If there is any way in which you feel you can contribute, I would urge you to contact John Hunter or Peter Hodges.

I look forward to meeting more of you in the coming weeks and months. Please do keep an eye out for future OB events, both UK based and abroad, but in the meantime, if you are ever near or about the School, please do not hesitate to contact us and pop in; you will be guaranteed a warm welcome. Simply contact Dot Jones and we would love to see you.

With best wishes,

**Tony Jackson**

Headmaster and President of the Old Barnardians' Club

# Contents

## CHAIRMAN REFLECTS

An active year for the Club



4

## PUSHING PERSONAL BOUNDARIES

Bentley Beetham Endeavour Lecture



6

## BARNARDIAN NEWS

Round up of news from the OB community



8

## OBITUARIES

In memoriam



24

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Join us at a forthcoming event



27

## 'STAY CONNECTED'

There are a number of ways you can keep up-to-date with School and OB news and events

### School

**Twitter:** @barney\_school

**Facebook:** Barnard Castle School

**Instagram:** Barnardcastleschool

**Website:** [www.barnardcastleschool.org.uk](http://www.barnardcastleschool.org.uk)

### Old Barnardians

**Twitter:** @barney\_ob

### Facebook:

Old Barnardians Club

Old Barnardians Womens Sports Teams

Old Barnardians Rugby

### LinkedIn:

[www.linkedin.com/company/barnard-castle-school](http://www.linkedin.com/company/barnard-castle-school)

**Website:** [www.barnardiansreconnected.org.uk](http://www.barnardiansreconnected.org.uk)

**YouTube:** We are pleased to announce that there is now an OB YouTube Channel showing clips of individual OBs and the School film from the late 1940s with an 'update' from the 1990s.

The Alumni Privacy Notice of Barnard Castle School is available at [www.barnardiansreconnected.org.uk](http://www.barnardiansreconnected.org.uk)



# WELCOME MESSAGES



## Message from the Chairman

**I'd like to welcome you to another edition of Barney Connect which is now in its fifth year. The breadth and volume of Old Barnardian related activities underline how active the Club is and reinforces the close ties we maintain with the School. On that note Alan Stevens' successor, the new Headmaster Tony Jackson has played a huge part in galvanising efforts to ensure that the School and Club continue to run as one and I'm looking forward to his tenure being a long one.**

Notable highlights during the year include the Autumn Gathering in September which saw another good turnout for golf, hockey, squash and of course Touch 7s rugby. This was closely followed by a well-attended London Dinner at the East India Club in October and in addition to the semi-regular London drinks, Dot Jones hosted two dinners in Australia and Tony hosted the first Hong Kong dinner, all three of which saw a good number of expat Old Barnardians in attendance.

In December the traditional Christmas rugby game was held against Darlington RFC and Yarm Old Boys. There was a good turnout of all ages but after a convincing win against Darlington, a much younger Yarm team had the upper hand. March saw the first dinner at School for several years with attendees ranging from last year's leavers stretching all the way back to several from the 1940s. The cricket correspondent Stephen Brenkley (OB and current parent) gave an excellent and amusing speech touching on his career and his time at Barney – then and now. The plan is to hold this Dinner every other year, alternating it with the London Dinner.

Most recently we held the reunion of Old Barnardians from the 1970s on the same day as the Summer Gathering. As usual this was an excellent weekend starting with a strong showing at the Old Well on the Friday evening followed by a morning of reminiscences with a large cohort from the 70s and a very pleasant afternoon in front of the beer tent whilst various teams competed against the school at netball, football and shooting. Looking forward there will be the Autumn Gathering in September followed by Remembrance Weekend in November, for which the School is planning events to commemorate the centenary of the end of WW1. All current or past serving OBs should have received an invitation by now.

All of these events are assisted hugely by our embrace of social media which has become a very helpful method for keeping people up to date with news and events. These events are superb opportunities for catching up, networking and reminiscing and I urge anyone in the vicinity to come along to future gatherings. The Facebook group page goes from strength to strength with over 1,500 members and there is also a LinkedIn group which is a superb opportunity for networking, as well as a YouTube page containing a large number of clips about the school and notable OBs.

Turning to the future, there is now an ambitious 20-year vision in place; it really is an exciting time to be an Old Barnardian. We would of course welcome any assistance in helping to take this forward.

Following essential refurbishments over the summer, the first major capital project will be a sports pavilion which will allow for spectator viewing across the fields. Peter Hodges provides more detail later in the magazine and we would be most grateful to hear from anyone interested in contributing to turning this vision into a reality.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Committee members for their time and effort, all of whom have made an invaluable contribution both in maintaining strong relations with the School and also helping to grow the reach of the Club and ensuring its continuing relevance. The unsung hero behind all of this remains Dot Jones who has coped admirably with the growing pressures and demands as the Club has grown over recent years. On behalf of the Committee and the Club I extend my sincere and heartfelt thanks to her for everything that she does to make the Club the success that it is.

Kind regards,

**John Hunter**

Chairman of the Old Barnardians' Club

## Message from the Heads of School

**We have accumulated a total of 23 Barney years between us, having both started in Prep School. In that time, we have seen many changes, as School has responded to cultural and technological developments, and we ourselves have changed and grown as Barney has prepared us for life after school. At the same time, we will look back fondly on those traditions that are firmly part of the Barney story. We feel extremely fortunate to have experienced so much of what Barney has to offer; we hope that this personal collection of some of our memories of our time at Barney will strike a chord.**

Sport has always played a big part in Barney life, and our memories cover rugby, hockey and netball, first with Mr and Mrs Seddon in Prep, followed by a short trip to Holland in Year 10, and finishing with a thoroughly memorable senior sports tour to South Africa last summer; Rohan will remember squash matches under the guidance of Mr Gedye, and we will both never forget the feeling of relief at the end of the Barney Bash. And as far as trips go, Rohan has helped with a monkey survey in Sri Lanka, Alex is off to Kenya in the summer, to shadow a Kenyan GP, and we have both been lucky enough to see the Northern Lights on a geography trip to Iceland.

Music and drama also provide many memories. Alex has sung in Chapel, in the Bowes Museum, in Durham Cathedral and in London. We have enjoyed performing in jazz and swing concerts in School, as well as appearing in a number of school musicals and plays, from the dark and challenging 'Sweeney Todd' to the much lighter 'Addams Family' or the farce 'Noises Off' under the passionate and exuberant direction of Mr Edwards.

In our years at Barney, we have seen a new science block, a new sports pavilion and most recently a new Sixth Form Centre, where a 'Creamy Choc' is the drink of the moment. The advent of technology has meant that the laptop is as essential as pen and paper,

mobile phones are ubiquitous and the internet is the font of all knowledge. Barney has given us other opportunities such as honing our presentation skills at Lectern Club and socialising at Sixth Form formals. As Heads of School, we have had two memorable trips, one to the Heads of School Conference at Wellington College, and the second to the old Barnardians' Dinner at the East India Club, both thoroughly enjoyable in their separate ways, and both excellent opportunities for networking.

Despite all of this, the things that will stay with us are the traditions. Some, like Wednesday morning croissants at the senior monitors meeting, may be particular to our cohort; others such as house cheers, celebrating an away win by standing on Central Hall table, nailing up or even fish-and-chip Friday, are part of the Barney furniture. Yet others, such as attendance at Remembrance Day parades, link Barney firmly to the wider world.

Barney has provided us with support and encouragement throughout our time here. We leave to take our place in society with confidence, carrying the ethos of fairness, responsibility and enjoyment. We leave with a firm set of friends, from within both students and staff and with an abiding memory of singing Jerusalem in Chapel.

**Alex Thompson**  
Head Girl

**Rohan Kelsall**  
Head Boy



## Valedictory Presentations

**Earlier this year the OB Committee, in discussion with the Headmaster, agreed to present our U6<sup>th</sup> leavers with a school hymn book as a special keepsake of their time at Barney.**

Each book will contain a message from the Headmaster and will be presented during the Valedictory service, on the final day of the school year, by the Chairman of the Club. On Speech Day this year the first presentations were made. One of the first recipients included Alice Hunter, daughter of the OB Club Chairman John and grand-daughter of the late David Hunter (Du, '63).



### **Presentation to Alan Stevens, Headmaster 2010-17**

Alan Stevens left to take up the position of Master of Marlborough College, Malaysia after seven years as the ninth Headmaster of Barnard Castle School. His enthusiasm for and support of the Club was very much appreciated. At his final Annual General Meeting as the Club President Alan was presented with an engraved whisky decanter and matching glasses. We wish him and his wife Heather much success in Malaysia.



# BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL NEWS



## BENTLEY BEETHAM ENDEAVOUR LECTURE

We were pleased to welcome OB Josef Faulkner (Du, '04) as the guest speaker at the 2018 Lecture. For the first time the lecture took place in the Sixth Form Centre and was delivered to a diverse audience of current and former staff, current and former parents, governors, OBs and current pupils.

**Josef gave an insightful and thought-provoking account of his experiences of mental illness which began as a teenager when Josef became the carer for his mother who was diagnosed with a mental illness.**

This led to some poor behaviour at school but Josef spoke about the help he was given by members of staff and made special mention of former Headmaster, David Ewart, who suggested that he follow a career in Mental Health Services. After graduating from university with a degree in Mental Health Nursing Josef is now a Nursing Operational Manager, with responsibility

for the delivery of community mental health and alternative to hospital services across Leeds. He is also an associate lecturer at Leeds Beckett University, supporting their nursing degree and post graduate courses. Josef has a passion for raising awareness of mental health issues in all types of organisations across the country, and in 2017 he challenged himself to raise money to help with the implementation of training courses, Mental Health First Aid, by running the 262.2 miles from Leeds to London and to complete the challenge by running the London Marathon. In effect this was 10 marathons in 10 days!

At the end of the lecture there was a Q&A session with some interesting questions from the audience. A member of the current Sixth Form spoke to Josef about following a similar career path and he has organised some work experience for her.



## A GEORGE MEDAL ARRIVES AT BARNEY

Eight years after leaving Barnard Castle School Brennan Cran was working for Barclays in Darlington when his working day was interrupted by an armed robbery.

**It was the end of the day and he was balancing the cash at the counter whilst the guard on duty was in the safe room. A man, dressed as a woman, entered the bank carrying a bag.**

As he approached the counter he took out an automatic pistol and instructed Brennan to fill the bag with cash.

Waving the gun around he then told Brennan to go into the safe room. Once there the robber instructed the guard to get under the table, but as he did the guard activated the alarm. The robber ran away but Brennan chased him. Just as Brennan was about to grapple the robber to the ground he turned and shot Brennan in the chest, just 5cm from his heart.

Despite this Brennan was able to snatch the gun from the robber and hit him on the head. In pain and with his strength failing, Brennan managed to hold on to the robber until the police arrived.

Brennan was awarded the George Medal in 1964 for his great bravery, and in July 2017 he generously donated it to School. It was brought from Canada, where Brennan now lives, by his dear friend Mrs Waiter. The medal will be displayed in the Chapel. Tony Jackson wrote to thank him for the medal and sent him a new OB tie to replace the one Brennan was wearing on the day!

The Headmaster wrote to thank him for his medal and sent him a new tie to replace the one Brennan had been wearing on the day!



# BARNARDIAN NEWS



## CHRISTOPHER COOK (Y, '77) WINNER OF THE VALERIA SYKES AWARD, NEW LIGHT EXHIBITION

After leaving Barney Christopher went on to study English and Fine Art at the University of Exeter followed by an MA (Painting) at the Royal College of Art.

**In 1987 he was invited to spend two years in Bologna as an Italian Government Fellow.**

He has been a recipient of an ACE fellowship, a British School at Rome Award and has been Visiting Fellow Ruskin School/St Edmunds Hall, Oxford University, amongst others. His major solo exhibitions include Camden Arts Centre, Memphis Art Museum, Yokohama Museum of Art, Heidelberger Kunstverein, Towner.

In 2017 he won the Valerie Sykes Award for his painting 'Forbidden Fruit' after entering the New Light Exhibition held at the Bowes Museum. The submitting artists had to have been born, lived, or studied in one of the historical counties of the north of England in order to give an insight into contemporary northern art.

Christopher now lives in Devon but an important motivation for him entering this exhibition was the fact that it sits next to his

old school. He is quoted as saying "as a young pupil at Barnard Castle School we would often be taken to draw inside The Bowes Museum. One of the earliest schoolboy drawings I still possess is a view of the Museum's exterior.

It is an extraordinary feeling to have been awarded the Valerie Sykes Award in the very place I learnt to draw."

You can see more of Christopher's work on [www.christophercook.cc](http://www.christophercook.cc)

## SAM OAKES (DA, '11) FOLLOWS HIS DREAM

**During my time at Barney I tried to immerse myself in the outdoors, from cycling at the weekends to Barney Run training along the River Tees.**

It's very easy to feel the call of the wild when school is set in such beautiful countryside! My first foray into using a camera also came whilst at school, spending my weekends filming bike races around the country. Although I couldn't envisage it then, these two trajectories were bound to collide; maybe filming wildlife was inevitable!

After many exciting years studying geography with Mr Dalton and continuing this study at Durham University, it seemed the outdoors were being further ingrained in my life. Subsequent trips to study glaciers in Norway and cycle through Patagonia for three months stoked my curiosity in wildlife further, all the while with a camera still in hand.

After a brief foray into the world of the 9-5 desk job I conceded I couldn't shy away from my conscience any longer. I needed to give wildlife filmmaking a go. I would regret never trying.

In August 2016 I handed in my notice, walked away and started from scratch. For the next nine months I filmed wildlife throughout the UK to build a portfolio of work I was happy with. Diving head first into this process taught me a great deal about persistence, but eventually it paid off.

In spring 2017 I began working on the "Wild Britain" series for Channel 5, filming species around the north of England including our very own Teesdale! Time has flown since that moment and further work with the One Show and Springwatch for the BBC has led me to today. I am by no means established, but I'm trying to make a start.

I'm eternally grateful to all the people who have helped me along the way, for the opportunities and advice, I genuinely can't thank them enough. A healthy dose of Barney's active agenda kindled my love of the outdoors, and for that I am also very thankful.

"I'm eternally grateful to all the people who have helped me along the way."



# BARNARDIAN NEWS

## CHRISTOPHER DAWSON (T,'02) MY 16 YEARS OF 'POINT-TO-POINT'

I was brought up on a farm and my parents trained racehorses as a hobby. It was my interest in what they did that led me to a career as an amateur jockey.

**It's not the easiest thing for me to do as I am over six foot and a tad heavier than jockeys usually are. I stuck to my diet though and made the grade.**

At the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> XV school rugby season in 2002 for which I had been Captain I made my point to point debut. My second ride was a winner aboard Pennyman at Hutton Rudby. In the 16 years that followed I rode 130 point to point winners including 14 on professional tracks, and I got to ride at the Cheltenham and Aintree festivals finishing 7<sup>th</sup> at Cheltenham and getting brought down at the first fence in my only attempt over the Grand National fences.

Injuries, as with any sport, are a risk and a dislocated hip, fractured skull and a multiple facial fracture that required metal plates in my face cut short three separate seasons.

However, I was Yorkshire area champion jockey for three seasons and rode some great horses that went on to have good success on professional tracks including horses called Always Right and West End Rocker. I decided at the end of this season that I'd had enough of the dieting and it was time to be sociable! Friday nights sweating in the bath were not that enjoyable anymore.

It was great that on my final day as a jockey I rode, and then trained, a winner that was ridden by my brother John. The training is something that will follow now, along with running a busy thoroughbred stud on the family farm. Also in the last couple of years I've been roped back into playing rugby for Sedgfield with my brother Phil who is club captain. At least I can try and be a bit heavier for this next season!



## THE 'OLD SCHOOL NETWORK' DOESN'T ALWAYS MEAN MAKING MONEY AND SECURING JOBS!



**On a Friday night at the end of the rugby season in Salisbury the OB 'old school' network came into its own. They may be a generation (or more) apart but Julia Doig (née Stevens, L, '89) and Sam Leeming (Du, '15) found themselves side by side at Salisbury Rugby Club U14s End of Season Dinner. Sam had been invited to be the VIP for the evening by Julia, U14s Squad Administrator.**

It's a little known fact that girls have played rugby at Barney... or at least tried to! Back in 1988 15 of the 30 or so girls attending the School at the time made a stand. Rugby definitely ruled the School so why couldn't they have a go too?

Training took place on Sunday mornings, and there was no shortage of girls turning up to be coached by the 1<sup>st</sup> XV. Back then girls weren't playing rugby anywhere nearby so it was decided to round off the term with a charity match of Girls versus the 1<sup>st</sup> XV. It was quite an occasion with the whole school turning out to watch. In reality they had no chance as the 1<sup>st</sup> XV had a 'ringer' amongst them – a Preppie who ran like the wind down the wing!

As far as we know none of the girls took their rugby further, but they all remember that day as one of the best at Barney. Julia probably isn't the only one of them who now spends hour upon hour on the touch line watching her son play rugby every Sunday. Sam Leeming, of course, is well on his way to a successful career in the sport. He left Barney after A Levels to go to Hartpury College and he graduates this year with a BSc in Sports Performance.

And whilst studying he has represented Hartpury College in the winning team twice at the University Championships, and as a result was selected to play for the England Students team. He's also made a few appearances for the Hartpury Championship side and has all to play for once he completes his degree in the summer.

And Sam now has 32 young rugby players in Salisbury following his career closely after he gave an inspiring talk and presented the awards to the U14s prize winners.

Only days after the presentation Sam flew to Australia to play at Gordon rugby club, Manly, New South Wales where he will play until the need to return to play once again for Hartpury.

## Stephanie Clift (L, '09)

Has been working on her music and after a spell of writing in America and performing with artists such as The New York Dolls and Alabama 3, she is now working on her own studio album.

Having performed at Glastonbury, Bestival and Belladrum, Stephanie is definitely a seasoned festival performer.

Alongside this, she has been touring as a guest vocalist with Alabama 3 and O'Connell & Love. Stephanie recently supported Toyah Wilcox at the O2 Academy Newcastle and will be appearing as support for Big Country in October 2018 at the same venue.

She has fond memories of Barney: "I often think about my years at Barnard Castle and how I enjoyed the encouragement and sense of belonging, not only in the music education but also the sense of community that the school offered. I was always encouraged to be the best that I could be and for that I am extremely grateful as this helped give me the right attitude to achieve my best."



# BARNARDIAN NEWS

## Gatherings and Dinners



**It was a busy year with the Summer and Autumn gatherings, the Barnard Run, golf, overseas dinners in Australia and Hong Kong, City drinks and a get-together after hearing the choir sing evensong at Southwark Cathedral. There was a London Dinner at the East India Club in October and in March the first dinner back at School for over seven years.**

At the Summer Gathering we struggled to raise teams so we are most grateful to those who saved the day. Particular thanks must go to Zoe Wilkinson (B, '09) who managed to get the netball team together and Chris Wayman (Da, '04) who rounded up the footballers. Stuart Everall's carefully selected cricket team won their game, despite a Year 8 student reaching 106 runs. The School won the day by winning the shooting, netball and the football was a draw. The Headmaster presented the Challenge Shield at nailing up on the last day of term.

Afternoon tea was enjoyed by all and the liquid refreshment provided by OB Peter Fenwick's (Da, '76) Mithral Ales seemed to slip down nicely, as it did at the Autumn Gathering after the hockey and rugby.

The dates for future sporting events are mentioned in the 'Dates for your Diary'

section at the end of the magazine and we hope that more OBs will be willing to play in the matches. As always please register your interest with the OB Secretary.

Three overseas dinners took place in 2017. Dot Jones was on holiday in Australia and managed to arrange two very pleasant get-togethers, one in Melbourne the other in Perth. Both were attended by eight or nine OBs.

The Headmaster visited Hong Kong in October and with the help of Nick Green (Du, '90) held a dinner at the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club.

Then in March this year over 120 OBs gathered at School for a dinner. It was an amazing evening with leavers from 1949 to 2017. We now plan to hold an annual dinner in London one year and at School the next.

## OB Golf

The matches were played in very good spirits despite the very challenging weather conditions. The longest drive, which is on the 10<sup>th</sup> hole, and the Grayden Cup (36 points) were won by Kevin Atkin. Nigel Hill won nearest the pin on the 11<sup>th</sup> hole, and finished on 31 points. The remaining Old Barnardians taking part were Stuart Hicks (32 points), Edmund Levie (29 points) and Nigel's father Richard with 33 points and second place.

The OB Secretary's apologies must go to those who played golf in this tournament as it wasn't as well organised as it usually is. Plans are afoot to make sure it does not happen again.

## Barnard Run 2018

A big thank you to the three OBs who braved the cold and wet to run this year.

Tom and Will Carter (T, '17) and Paul Gibson (T, '77): at least they all got a podium place!



# BARNARDIAN 1970S DECADE REUNION



This year the decade reunion took place on the Saturday morning of the Summer Gathering.

**Those who left school in the 1970s and had been invited by the Headmaster, gathered in the Sixth Form Centre where they collected name badges and scanned the room for familiar faces.**

**After a welcome from Tony Jackson and the obligatory photo on the Chapel steps, the group went into Chapel where they were surprised by the presence of Rev John Moore, who preached at this short but meaningful service. Another surprise visitor was Norman Philbey who popped in just after lunch.**

After a sit down lunch in Big School lots of OBs stayed to watch OB sport vs School, although they were disappointed not to see a cricket match.

Our thanks go to Scott Edwards, who ran a well-stocked bar, the catering department, the maintenance department, Judith Pepper, Les and Elizabeth Dodds and Malcolm McCallum.



BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL

## **1980s Decade Reunion Saturday 29 June 2019**

This event is by invitation.  
Please make sure we know where to post your invitation to and if you know anyone who is not in contact with the OB Secretary ask them to contact her as soon as possible. Looking forward to seeing you there.

# BARNARDIAN 1970S DECADE REUNION



'Good old Rev Moore - he hasn't changed one bit'

'Especially good to see the Prep School'





'Brilliant archive display – had a few laughs at the photos!'



# BARNARDIAN 1970S DECADE REUNION



'Quite emotional being back in Chapel!'

'Haven't belted out Jerusalem like that since I left School!'



'What a great day; I won't leave it so long before I come back again.'



BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL

Barney welcomes all financial support through donations, regular giving and legacy pledges.

Please visit [www.barnardcastleschool.org.uk](http://www.barnardcastleschool.org.uk) for details or contact the Development Office in confidence.

# BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL FOUNDATION

I am extremely pleased to report that our 20-year Vision for Barney, which I referred to in the last edition of Barney Connect, is now manifest in the form of our comprehensive Masterplan.



**This has emerged following detailed liaison with many stakeholders and with the benefit of local authority consultation.**

Whilst this represents a broad view of how the School estate and infrastructure will evolve to meet current and future needs of the School it has also given urgency and focus to immediate priorities along with an insight into the affordability of its various phases.

This summer break will see enhancements to the ground floor of the Senior School. These address the urgent need for improvements to the staff common room facilities, visitor reception and School administration. Along with the upgrading of the central circulation spaces it will offer a warm and friendly welcome drawing everyone in as they emerge through the front entrance.

Following the lead set by the remarkable success of the Kenneth King Sixth Form Centre this will pick up the momentum and kick start the Masterplan into reality. These early stage developments are being financed by existing school funds but as we embark on the larger strategic elements they cannot be provided through school fee income alone. We continue to pursue all potential funding sources available to us, particularly those interested in shared facilities. However, to bridge the affordability gap and maintain progress towards achieving the milestones within our plan we rely on the generosity of our benefactors. Historically this has always been so at Barney, as it has with most independent schools.

The exciting developments forming the core of the Masterplan programme start with a new sports pavilion. This will incorporate modern changing rooms serving both visiting and home teams enhanced by an upper level glazed community and event space. It will boast a 360-degree viewing balcony creating a vibrant spectator hub for comfortable all seasons support along with coaching and mentoring facilities for our aspiring sportsmen and sportswomen at all levels and abilities. The value of sport in its varied and diverse forms for improving the wellbeing of every individual cannot be underestimated. This new pavilion is intended to cater for everyone and provide suitably located



spectator facilities to cover all internal and external team fixtures throughout the year. Barney's strong reputation for sporting achievement can only be maintained by improving our existing facilities so this initiative is both essential and urgent.

The next priority is a more ambitious project to create a new teaching block located near to M Block. This will bring together several complementary departments in bespoke, fully equipped teaching spaces. This will make way for the redevelopment of their current locations as part of the longer-term strategy.

You will see from the whole site plan that these two projects represent the beginning of an exciting and dynamic era for Barney which will safeguard the future of our School for many generations to come.

As promised in my previous article I am very pleased to be able to share our Barney Vision with you. To achieve it takes much more than ideas and strategic planning so I invite you to join with us to assist in its achievement. If there are any aspects of the Masterplan that are of particular interest I would be delighted to discuss them with you.

Best wishes,

**Peter Hodges** (Y, '72)  
**Chairman of Barnard Castle School Foundation**

# BARNARDIAN NEWS IN BRIEF

In early 2014 **Simon Pettler** (T, '99) moved to Bermuda to work as an actuary for a reinsurance company. After three years of living there he became eligible to represent the Bermuda National Team, playing against Mexico and Cayman Islands in the 2017 Rugby Americas North Championship. Injury has prevented him from playing in the 2018 Championship but he hopes to be back for 2019. He is also captain of local Bermudian club Renegades who won the Bermuda league this season.



In 2017 **Marcus Bately** (N, '91) and **Nathan Bately** (N, '92) visited the UK and met up with a few friends whilst 'up north'. Nathan arrived just after the pic but Marcus, his wife Heidi and daughter Sydney are in the centre of the photograph with Paul Cummins, Ed Bartlett, Mike Spink and Simon Bartlett.



**Ricky Hopwood** (Da, '06) and **Andrew Seddon** (Du, '07) ran the London Marathon 2018 to raise money for the charity Myeloma UK as their close friend, also an OB, was diagnosed with this cancer in December 2016. On his Just Giving page Ricky wrote the following: 'Because he's such a hero, he's already completed many fundraising events himself including: rowing round the British Isles, carrying a beer keg on his back for 100 miles, a few half marathons, cycling from London to Brighton and voluntarily building a hospice for children in Africa.'

As he's never been one to shy away from a challenge, the possibility that I would get a place in the marathon was the only option he was remotely impressed with!



Professor **Frank Whately** (N, '67) has been invited by the prestigious Marlowe Society to deliver their annual lecture for 2018. It will be held at the Rose Theatre, Kingston upon Thames on Saturday 24 November 2018 at 5:00pm.

**Iain Kearsley Lt Cdr RN** (Da, '91) is still in the Royal Navy and has just returned from one year spent as the RN student on the Indian military's Advanced Command and Staff Course in Tamil Nadu, southern India. Amongst many enjoyable moments, the highlight was a two-week period spent with the Indian Army in Kashmir, along the Line of Control. Following a period of leave, Iain will take up a new appointment as Equerry to Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall.



At the time of writing **Nick Talbot** (Da, '94) has just become the first person with cystic fibrosis to climb the highest mountain in North America. You will have seen in previous issues of Barney Connect that Nick became the first person with cystic fibrosis to reach the summit of Everest in 2016. He then set himself the challenge of climbing the highest mountain on each of the seven continents. He has only one more to go!

**Neil Curtis** (N, '88), after almost 25 years serving in REME, has spent the last 22 months renovating a large property in Buxton, Derbyshire which is now officially open as a B&B. [www.grendonbnb.co.uk](http://www.grendonbnb.co.uk)

**Jess Hall** (B, '14) has been concentrating on her golfing career since leaving Barney. She has received her first cap for England and has now been awarded a full scholarship to Fresno State University, California on the strength of her golfing achievements. The course lasts for four years, after which Jess hopes to become a professional golfer.



Congratulations to **Tom Honeyman** (T, '03) who is Managing Director of Honeyman Group. His company was recently awarded a Queen's Award for Enterprise: Innovation (2018), for their HydroGienic® Pure Water Distribution System.



**Tom Passmore** (Da, '03) recently launched his own business called Dsposal. He aims to revolutionise the waste industry by using technology to connect waste producers to licensed waste facilities and to simplify compliance. Have a look online if you would like to know more. [www.dsposal.uk/](http://www.dsposal.uk/)

## We welcome your latest news and photographs.

Submit online at [www.barnardiansreconnected.org.uk](http://www.barnardiansreconnected.org.uk)  
or email [development@barneyschool.org.uk](mailto:development@barneyschool.org.uk)

**Andrew Thornton** (Y, '89) has recently retired after 28 years as a jump jockey. After school he worked as a stable boy for trainer Arthur Stephenson in Bishop Auckland. He won his first race at Sedgfield and in total he has won 1,006 races, including the Cheltenham Gold Cup in 1998 on Cool Dawn and 69 wins at Wincanton.



**Calum Matthews** (T, '13) is cycling 11,000 km from Cairo to Cape Town with a couple of friends to raise money for the Against Malaria Foundation having been inspired by Jack White who came in to school to speak when he had conquered the same route for charity some years ago. They are having an amazing adventure. You can read Calum's blog on [cyclingagainstmalaria.wordpress.com/](http://cyclingagainstmalaria.wordpress.com/) and his fundraising page can be found at [www.againstmalaria.com/AfricaNorthToSouth](http://www.againstmalaria.com/AfricaNorthToSouth)

**Andrew Darling** (Da, '02) sadly lost his mother-in-law to the very rare disease, CJD. He desperately wanted to raise money for CJD Support Network and decided on the challenge of the Three Peaks in 24 hours. When he needed help he turned to his OB mates to complete the challenge with him. So on 12 May Andrew, Henry Carver (Du, '06), Ed Gibbon (N, '00) and friends set off. They completed the challenge in 23 hours 41 minutes and raised £5,500.



We recently heard that two OBs received special awards as alumni of Nottingham University. **Sir Nigel Sherlock** (N, '58), who graduated with a Law degree in 1961, gained a Lifetime Achievement Award and **Janey Lowes** (M, '07), Veterinary Medicine and Science in 2012 received the Recent Graduate Award. Sir Nigel has, amongst many other things, had a very successful career in investment banking and was the Lord Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear for 14 years. Janey founded WEcare Worldwide to catch, neuter and vaccinate strays, treat injured animals and educate local people, vets and technicians. It was only after the ceremony that Nigel and Janey met for the first time.



In November 2017 **Tom** and **Will Carter** (T, '17) and Tom Greaves (T, '17) joined staff member Dr Kevin Cosstick at Centrepoint's 'Sleep out Sunderland'.



Whilst in the USA for their son's wedding **Nick** and **Sue Seddon** took the opportunity to catch up with Jenny Dixon (L, '89) who was a House Captain when they were the Longfield Houseparents. Not only did they catch up with Jenny but also Courtney Tipping who was a lacrosse coach at Barney, leaving in 2008.



**Nyundo Armitage** (N, '98) has been appointed to the coaching team of the Zambia 7s.

**Thea Thompson** (M, '12) bumped in to Ella Bowen, current pupil, when playing netball.



Congratulations to **Mike Ellery** (N, '08) who won a Bronze Medal with the England 7s team at the Commonwealth Games in Australia.



# BARNARDIAN NEWS IN BRIEF

## Marriages

**Chris Wayman** (Da, '04) married Toni in August 2017 in Settle. Chris's best men were OBs Josef Faulkner and Teddy (Andrew) Robinson with Doug Dinwiddie, Jayne-Louise Wilson, Matty Harrison, Carl Hetherington, Karl Lee, George Carpenter, Tom Rixon and Kate Wayman all attending. In these days of modern technology Becky Llewelyn and Ian Dinwiddie were also there courtesy of Skype!



The Turner family had a very busy year on the wedding front with **Stephanie's** and **Emily's** in December. Stephanie (L, '09) married Simon Clemons in August 2017 on Temple Island, Henley-on-Thames. Bridesmaids included OBs Zoe Wilkinson and Sarah Green; brother of the bride OB Thomas Turner was an usher, and sister of the bride, Emily-Kate was Maid of Honour. Guests included OBs Jess Neville, Laura Honeyman, Jess Ellwood, Tom Ross and Joseph Hyslop. Henley holds a special place in the hearts of the bride and groom as it is where they met, where Simon proposed, where they married and now it's the name of their very cute puppy.



**Emily** (L, '12) and Ben married in December in South Wales. The wedding was attended by 80 guests and Emily's bridesmaids included Emma Peat, Tori Richardson and her sister Stephanie. Emily and Ben now live in the Alnwick area and Emily is concentrating on her cake business [www.chemilyscakes.co.uk](http://www.chemilyscakes.co.uk)



**Scott Carpenter** (Da, '06) married Lisa Hay on Whitehaven Beach in the Whitsunday Islands in November 2017.



**Sarah Moss** (M, '04) married Pete Blanchard in July 2017 at St John the Baptist church, Windsor followed by a reception on Queen's Eyot Island, Bray. There were a number of OB guests including Charlotte Wilkinson, Seb Boothroyd, Tanya Buckingham, Jenny Dowson (née Wilson) and Josie Lewis.



**Charlotte Wilkinson** (B, '04) married Ross Ward at the Georgian Theatre in Richmond.



**Nick Zissler** (Da, '05) married Sabrina in September 2017 at the Orangery, Settrington Estate.



**Nick Loughran** (Da, '01) married Clara in December 2017 in the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, London.



**Matthew Mellish** (Y, '10) and Rebecca Coxan (L, '12) met at school and married in July 2017 in South Shields at St Michael and All Angels church followed by a reception at The Royal Station Hotel, Newcastle upon Tyne. Rebecca qualified as a primary school teacher and works in Sunderland, and Matthew has just passed his exams to join Royal Academy Sandhurst as an officer cadet.



**Heather Stanwix** (B, '09) married Daniel Woods last December and had a full complement of OB bridesmaids: her sister, Hannah, Anna and Sadie Cuthbert and Lydia Hammond. There were lots of other OB guests including Emily Rixon, Zoe Wilkinson, Laura Moss, Charlotte Brown, Rebecca Morrell, Becky Wade and Alex Brown.



**Stuart Croxford** (Y, '03) married Lizzie Knockton in St Oswald's Church, Leathley on New Year's Eve 2017.



**Alex Thomas** (B, '07) married Michael Smith in March 2018 in Durham. Ushers included James Thomas and Ian Hodgson and bridesmaids included Vicki Walsh (née Neville) and Charlotte Graham.



**Kathrin Iddon** (L, '08) married Chris Steele in Bradford on Avon in July 2017. OBs Amy Bain, Hazel Oakes and Chelsea McMillan were bridesmaids.



**Andrew Seddon** (Du, '07) married Emily McMillan in Delaware, USA in April. Many friends and family from the UK joined them. Twin brother Graeme was Best man and Ricky Hopwood was a groomsman.



**Christopher Lai** (Y, '85) married Mimi in January 2018 in London.



## Births

### Our congratulations go to:

**Carrie Riley** (née Burgess) whose son, Xavier, was born in August 2017.

**Richard Parker** who welcomed a daughter, Sophia in August 2017.

**Ashleigh Whitbread** (née Nixon) on the birth of her son Mylo in February 2018.

**Kathrin Steele** (née Iddon) on the birth of her son Chester in April 2018.

**Robert Armitage** on the birth of his son Jamie.

# OBITUARIES IN MEMORIAM



## **Douglas Taylor** (N, '45)

Died on 6 September 2017 only a few months after celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with a surprise visit to School as reported in the previous issue of Barney Connect.

**David C Wigg** (T, '75) died on 2 October 2017 after a long progressive neurological disease, Cortico Basal Degeneration. He returned to his roots in 1987 and practised as a dental surgeon in Barnard Castle for many years, sadly retiring early with ill health. He leaves behind his wife Christina, daughters Erica and Alice and two grandsons, Gillan and Kester.

**David John Chambers** (Y, '64) died on 24 August 2017 after a battle with colon cancer. 'Dave and I plus Mike Tarry (Y, '64) - among many others - were close friends in our later school days. Dave and I found it hard to keep in touch (Fife for me and Kingston upon Thames for him) but we shared many rich experiences in the 5-10 years after leaving school.

After school Dave pursued higher education in building construction and obtained a professional apprenticeship with the national house-builder George Wimpey & Co. He became involved in several major urban renewal projects from Glasgow to Portsmouth. This wide range was fortunate since I happened to do a higher degree in the former university and take my second professional job in the latter city. Dave then started his own building contractor's business – also based in and around Kingston upon Thames, and this business flourished for several decades until his retirement about 10 years ago. Dave was a complete and very popular gentleman. He is survived by his wife Terry, two sons and several grandchildren. In his last few years he had downsized to retire in Putney, very close indeed to the Thames'. Phil Hutchinson (Y, '64)

The thoughts and prayers of the whole Barnard Castle School community are extended to the family and friends, of those Old Barnardians who are no longer with us. May they rest in peace.

**George Jameson** (Du, '42) passed away in May 2017. Later in life George took up painting and attributed this to the encouragement of his art master 'Sammy Phillips'.

After his death Mrs Jameson donated his art materials to school.

**James Parry Fryer** (Y, '39) died on 13 December 2017.

**John Vernon Addison** (N, '46) passed away suddenly on Christmas Eve 2016 having led a rich and full life.

He was immensely proud to be an Old Barnardian.

**John Gomersall** (T, '84) suddenly at home on 17 November 2017. John leaves behind 2 sons.

**Geoffrey Clark** (Y, '54) died on 10 December 2017 the father of OBs Antony and Jeremy Clark.

After his time at school, where he very much enjoyed a sporting life, including playing for the 1st XV 'Nobby', as he was known, joined the army with both institutions giving him a strong backbone and work ethic.

Once his time in the army had come to an end Geoffrey worked for one company his entire career – Scottish Amicable Life Assurance – rising from inspector to regional manager.

He took early retirement and used his time to help with various DIY projects. However, having suffered a heart attack Geoffrey needed to slow down and he bought a static caravan which he and his wife visited frequently. Sadly his wife died and he spent the final ten years as a widower and the final four fighting cancer. Dad lived a good life. He had seen what he wanted and got done what he wanted to do. He gave and expected nothing in return. God bless you, Dad. You have been an inspiration to your family and all those you have met.'

Antony Clark (Du, '86)

**Henry John Leigh Sykes** (Du, '53) died on 7 January 2018 aged 81, father of OB Jonathan Sykes (Du, '84).

**WR (Reay) Atkinson**, Governor, passed away in February 2018. He had a full life, having joined the Royal Navy during the war as a teenager and served on the Russian Convoys, was off the D Day beaches on 7 June and later hospitalised in Canada for 18 months having been badly wounded in the Scheldt estuary. After an eventful life in London and abroad as a senior civil servant, he returned to Newcastle, his place of birth, to head up the North East office. Whilst there he played a major role in getting Nissan to move to Sunderland and was involved in the plans to build the MetroCentre, the first of its kind in Europe. In retirement he headed up Northumbria Polytechnic and it obtained University status. He always was a great supporter of the School and as a Governor played a major part in some of the difficult issues the School faced. Whilst he famously did not 'tolerate fools', he was a delightful person to work with and certainly I and three Headmasters valued his advice. The new hall in Prep School was named in his honour.

# OBITUARIES IN MEMORIAM

**Alfred Beresford Willings** (N, '52) was born into a shipping family on 11 February 1934 and died on 17 March 2018. A member of Northumberland House, he excelled at rugby, cricket (colours) and squash. He became a Kings Scout and unbeknown to the staff he kept a pet hawk near the sanatorium. On leaving school he entered the Royal Artillery to serve his National Service. On completion of this he worked for his father for a year before deciding to spread his wings. He travelled to Hong Kong and Penang before spending eight years in Singapore where he qualified as a shipbroker. He played rugby, cricket and squash for the Singapore Cricket Club and golf became important in his life. He joined the Singapore Artillery Reserve commanding the saluting party for the Queen's visit and he joined Singapore Lodge where he was a member for over 50 years. He married Katy in 1962 in Singapore Cathedral and was then posted to Tokyo for two years working for the NYK line, before settling in Sydney (Katy's home city) in 1964 and working for Scottish Ship Management, where he rose to MD and eventually Chairman.

He loved his work, his office, his family, his veg patch, his golf, shooting, fishing and holidays with his brother Jeremy.

He loved his dog, his Lodge, he loved pre-impressionist art, clipper ships and near histories, his paintings, oriental art and crafts, fine wines and good food, telling jokes and quoting poetry. He was generous in every way and the world's best Dad.

He accepted the challenge of Parkinson's and dementia with courage and humour. He had a fall at the end of December 2017 the day before his youngest brother, Nick, arrived to visit and had to spend the end of the year in hospital. At the end his heart and kidneys failed him. Nick Willings (N, '64)

**E Derrick Lofthouse** (N, 1944) It is with sadness that I pass on the news of my father's death on Sunday 22nd April, an Old Barnardian who attended Barney during the Second World War. Dad would have been 90 this year and although he had been diagnosed with cancer in July 2016 he managed relatively well until earlier this year. He was a very active gentleman having been fully involved in village life in Sedgefield. As well as setting up a choir, the twinning association, raising funds for a welcome room in St Edmund's Church, he was also mayor three times.

He does, as I am sure you can understand, leave a huge hole for all the family and also the community. He often spoke of his time at Barney (not always fondly) but I am sure war times were very different and certainly difficult. He did however, up until very recently, still have his old school trunk. Helen Lofthouse-Hill (Daughter)

**Ian Scotland** (Du, '55) died on 21 November 2017. He leaves a widow, Cathy.

**Colin Blackett** (T, '64) brother of Stephen, died in Vancouver, Canada in June 2018.

Mr Philip Johnston, Head of History (1965-70), recently attended the funeral of Mrs Stephanie Woods, wife of the late Headmaster Derek Woods. During the funeral Mrs Woods' daughters, Philippa and Amanda, spoke of their happy memories of Barney.

The Woods had retired to East Sussex. Stephanie's last years were spent in a nursing home in St Leonards-on-Sea and when visited liked to reminisce about her happy days at Barney.

## Christine Rushbrook



Joined the school as the Old Boys secretary in 1994 and then became the PA to the Headmaster, Frank McNamara. She had travelled a lot in her lifetime before joining the school and so was appreciative of all the activities and the different nationalities there.

She really enjoyed her time working at the school leaving in June 2000 to move to Luxembourg with her husband, Tony. She made many friends there and became the secretary to the British Ladies Club. On Tony's retirement, they moved back to the UK. Sadly she died of cancer aged 67 on 25 June 2017. What was appreciated is that 6 old boys came down to Cambridgeshire for her funeral. She has been laid to rest in Great Chishill and is survived by her husband, her two sons Tim and Nick (both OB's) and her grandson. She will be greatly missed by many.

# DATES FOR THE DIARY

All events are listed online. For more information and to register your attendance, visit: [www.barnardiansreconnected.org.uk/events](http://www.barnardiansreconnected.org.uk/events) or email: [development@barneyschool.org.uk](mailto:development@barneyschool.org.uk)

## September



### Autumn Gathering

Sunday 16 September 2018 2:00pm  
(please note the change of date)

We look forward to welcoming touch rugby teams, ladies hockey and squash players to play against the School followed by a bite to eat and a drink at the bar.

### Golf

Sunday 16 September, 12 noon.

## October

### Open Day

Please see back page



### Hong Kong Drinks

Friday 19 October 2018 with the Headmaster.  
Please register your interest with Dot.

## November



### Remembrance Day

Sunday 11 November 2018 in the School Chapel at 10.45am. This year as well as the service in Chapel and the ceremony at the Bowes Museum Cenotaph there will be an exhibition in Big School and the new website detailing the stories of the OBs we lost in WW1 will be live.

## December

### Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Wednesday 12 December 7:30pm and  
Friday 14 December 5:30pm.  
A stunning candlelit, choral service.

## February



### Choral Evensong at Durham Cathedral

Monday 4 February 2019. All welcome.

## March



### London Dinner

Friday 8 March 2019, Lansdowne Club

## June

### Summer Gathering (incorporating 1980s decade reunion)

Friday 28 June to Sunday 30 June.

We meet in the Old Well on Friday night and on Saturday morning the 1980s leavers will meet at school. Then on Saturday afternoon we will play cricket, netball and football vs School for the Challenge Shield. Further details nearer the day.



## BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL



We offer an extensive range of extra-curricular activities free of charge.

Full time boarding from Year 3, flexi and occasional overnights available.

We provide a broad and balanced curriculum, high quality performing arts and sports provision and state of the art dedicated Sixth Form study and social centre.

Come and take a look for yourself and see what life at Barney is like.

For more information contact  
+44(0)1833 696030 or  
email [admissions@barneyschool.org.uk](mailto:admissions@barneyschool.org.uk)

### **OPEN MORNING**

Saturday 6th October 2018

### **SIXTH FORM INFORMATION EVENINGS**

Wednesday 7th November 2018 7.00 - 9.00pm

Friday 23rd November 2018 5.30 - 7.30pm